

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Final Rejection mailed July 11, 2006, the telephonic interview with the Examiner on October 5, 2006, and the Advisory Action mailed October 23, 2006. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments and remarks in response to the telephonic interview and the previous response. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. In a previous response and preliminary amendment, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 13-14 and 19. In the present preliminary amendment, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and dependent Claims 6, 13 and 19. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraphs 29-34 and Figure 3 of the original specification. No claims have been canceled or added in the present response. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Previously, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,016 to Erickson. The Applicants respectfully disagree since Erickson does not teach each element of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14. More specifically, Erickson does not teach decoding a single signal to activate a first one of a plurality of taps indicated by the signal and each subsequent one of the plurality of taps to insert a corresponding delay into a PLL including fixed delays associated with the first one and each subsequent one of the plurality of taps as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14.

Erickson discloses a phase-locked loop having a series of selectable voltage controlled delay elements (18, 19, 20) that can be inserted into a delay path at the choice of a user. (*See* column 4, lines 40-45 and Figure 1.) The voltage controlled delay elements are connected to a series of corresponding multiplexers (21, 22, 23) that are operated by control signals applied by a corresponding control element (24, 25, 26) to select or deselect a specific delay element or a combination of delay elements. As such, the delay elements may be introduced singly or may be cascaded. (*See* column 5, lines 4-12 and Figure 1.)

Thus, Erickson does not decode a single signal to activate, for example, delay element 19 and delay element 20 to insert a delay. Instead, Erickson discloses inserting each individual delay element into the delay path by a separate, corresponding control element. (*See* column 5, lines 4-12; column 7, lines 26-39; and Figure 1.) For example, delay element 20 is inserted into the delay path by control element 26 and delay element 19 is inserted by control element 25. In Erickson, therefore, a single signal is not decoded, such as from one of the control elements (24, 25, 26), to insert a delay in the delay path wherein the delay includes multiple of the delay elements (18, 19, 20). (*See* Figure 1.) As such, Erickson fails to teach decoding a single signal to activate a first one of a plurality of taps indicated by the signal and each subsequent one of the plurality of taps to insert a corresponding delay into a PLL including fixed delays associated with the first one and each subsequent one of the plurality of taps as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14.

Therefore, Erickson does not disclose each and every element of amended independent Claim 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. As such, Erickson does not anticipate independent Claims 1-20. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-20 and allow issuance thereof.

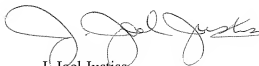
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Joel Justiss", is written over a horizontal line.

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